

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 20, 2010
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 9, 2010
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution **No. 181**

Introduced by Assembly Member Logue

August 2, 2010

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 181—Relative to California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 181, as amended, Logue. California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

This measure would designate November 2010 as California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month. It would recognize and acknowledge the significant contributions made by Californians of Sikh heritage to our state and afford all Californians the opportunity to understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich history, shared principles, religion, faith, and role Sikh Americans play in furthering mutual understanding and respect among all peoples.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, California and our nation are at once blessed and
- 2 enriched by the unparalleled diversity of our residents; and
- 3 WHEREAS, Among this unprecedented diversity in California,
- 4 there reside an estimated 200,000 Americans of Sikh origin,
- 5 comprising nearly 40 percent of the nation's estimated Sikh
- 6 population; and

1 WHEREAS, Sikh immigrants have resided in California for
2 more than a century, with the first Sikh immigrants believed to
3 have labored on railroad construction projects, *in lumber mills,*
4 *and in the agricultural heartlands of the Sacramento, San Joaquin,*
5 *and Imperial Valleys; and*

6 WHEREAS, The first Sikh temple (Gurdwara) in California
7 was established in Stockton in 1912, *and Sikh temples have since*
8 *been established in communities throughout California; and*

9 WHEREAS, While Sikh Americans have distinguished
10 themselves in numerous areas of endeavor, they have demonstrated
11 particular success in the areas of agriculture, trucking, *medicine,*
12 *and in the creation of small, family-owned businesses; and*

13 ~~WHEREAS, It is estimated that in Yuba and Sutter Counties,~~
14 ~~Sikh American farmers account for as much as 95 percent of peach~~
15 ~~farming, 60 percent of all prune farming, and 20 percent of all~~
16 ~~almond and walnut farming; and~~

17 WHEREAS, Yuba City, California, boasts ~~the largest population~~
18 *one of the largest confirmed populations* of Sikh and Punjabi
19 Americans in the nation, ~~and in 2009 elected Kashmir Gill as its~~
20 ~~first Sikh American mayor; and~~

21 WHEREAS, Dalip Singh Saund was the first Sikh American
22 and Asian American member of the United States Congress; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. Bhagat Singh Thind struggled and fought for
24 Asian Indians to be allowed to become American citizens; and

25 WHEREAS, Dr. Narinder Singh Kapany of Palo Alto is
26 acknowledged by many to be the father of fiber optics; and

27 ~~WHEREAS, Sikh Americans have served as mayors of California~~
28 ~~cities, including David Dhillon in El Centro, Gurpal Samra in~~
29 ~~Livingston, Amarpreet “Ruby” Dhaliwal in San Joaquin, and~~
30 ~~Kashmir Singh Gill in Yuba City, and numerous Sikh Americans~~
31 ~~have served as council members of California cities; and~~

32 WHEREAS, The Sikh and Punjabi American communities of
33 California continue to make important contributions to our state
34 and nation; and

35 ~~WHEREAS, Sikh Americans in Yuba City throughout~~
36 ~~California celebrate the coronation day of Sikh Scripture as Guru~~
37 ~~Gaddi Divas, also known as the Sikh Parade, along with parades~~
38 ~~in cities across California, the largest being held in Yuba City on~~
39 ~~the first Sunday of every November; now, therefore, be it~~

1 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
2 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the
3 month of November 2010 to be California Sikh American
4 Awareness and Appreciation Month; and be it further

5 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes and acknowledges
6 the significant contributions made by Californians of Sikh heritage
7 to our state, and by adoption of this resolution, seeks to afford all
8 Californians the opportunity to better understand, recognize, and
9 appreciate the rich history and shared principles of Sikh Americans,
10 their monotheistic religion and the tenets of their faith, and the
11 important role that Sikh Americans play in furthering mutual
12 understanding and respect among all peoples; and be it further

13 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
14 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution to the
15 Members of the Legislature, members of the California Sikh
16 American community, and other interested persons.